(b) whether the Union Government have permitted the Karnataka Government to borrow laons from abroad directly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to amend the Constitution to facilitate States to borrow loans from abroad directly ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) As per the Constitution of India, the executive power of the State extends to borrowing within the territory of India only. The State Government cannot raise loans abroad directly. However, State Government Undertakings can raise loans abroad subject to the Government of India's guidelines for External Commercial Borrowings.

(d) No, Sir.

Amendment in Notaries Act, 1952

78. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Karnataka for making some amendments in the Notaries Act, 1952;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSITCE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (b) Do not arise.

Shortage of Coal

79. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coal linkage committee had allocated 32,000 to 40,000 tonnes of coal per day to NTPC plant at Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh but the same quantity of coal is not being received in the plant;

(b) if so, the main reasons for short supply of coal; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the coal supplies to the aforesaid plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) As against a linkage of 75.75 lakh tonnes sanctioned to Ramagundam STPS during the period April, 1996 to January, 1997, actual despatches of coal have been 78.75 lakh tonnes during this period. The percentage materialisation is 104%.

(c) In order to augment the supplies, Ramagundam STPS has been advised to step up their lifting of coal by road from a nearby mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited. Further an additional linkage of 50,000 tonnes had also been provided for movement from Western Coalfields Limited for the current quarter.

[Translation]

Cotton Handloom Industry

80. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are ample possibilities of development of Cotton Handloom Industry in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to be given by the Union Government to ascertain the possibilities in this regard and promote the handloom industry in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government's assistance to all the State Governments/Union Territories including Madhya Pradesh is released on the basis of the proposals submitted by the respective State Government/Union Territories under various on-going programmes imlemented for the promotion of the Handloom Industry. A sum of Rs. 182.35 lakh has already been released during this financial year (1996-97) to Government of Madhya Pradesh under Market Development Assistance Scheme, Janata Cloth Scheme, Project Package Scheme, Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme, Loan for Handloom Projects etc.

[English]

Trading of Gold

81. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Gold Council, to stimulate gold consumption in India, has suggested trading of gold by commercial banks; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration by the Ministry of Finance.

Textiles Industries in Tamil Nadu

82. SHRI A.G.S. RAMBABU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Textile Industries located in Tamil Nadu alongwith the items produced by these textile industries;

(b) whether there is any plan to extend assistance to textile mills in the State to increase the production and export of textiles; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?